**Inclusion of Tableaux in Republic Day Parade**

284. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for including the tableaux of various States in Republic Day Parade;

(b) the years in which the tableaux of National Capital Region, Delhi were included in the Republic Day Parade during the last five years and the years in which it was not included;

(c) the reasons for non-inclusion thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any effective steps to ensure that the tableaux of Delhi is included in the Republic Day Parade; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) For selection of Tableaux for Republic Day Parade, various proposals received from State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and other organisations are examined by an expert committee constituted for the purpose. Final decision is taken by the Committee purely on aesthetic and artistic considerations. During the last five years the tableau of National Capital Territory of Delhi was selected in 1996.

**Leprosy Eradication Programme**

285. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has formulated any time-bound programme to eradicate leprosy from the whole world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan formulated by the World Health Organisation to eradicate leprosy in India;

(d) the financial assistance likely to be provided to India for this purpose;

(e) the number of leprosy patients rehabilitated during the last two years; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide employment to the young leprosy patients ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. World Health Assembly has passed a resolution for achieving elimination of leprosy by 2000 AD as a public health problem. World Health Organisation has planned to give anti-leprosy drugs free of cost to all the countries of the world to meet their entire requirement. WHO gives technical guidance and support to the programme for training, equipments and logistics. WHO has made a provision of US $ 82500 for the year 1996 and US $ 73000 for the year 1997 for India. During 1995-96 drugs worth US $ 5.6 million and during 1996-97 worth US $ 6 million have been supplied by WHO to India. WHO has offered to support Leprosy Elimination Campaign Project in Endemic areas in our country where programme is slow.

(e) and (f) The information is being collected from Ministry of Welfare.

**Primary Health Centres**

286. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres functioning in Uttar Pradesh during 1996-97;

(b) the number of proposals submitted by the State Government to the Union Government for setting up of new Primary Health Centres during 1996 and the number of proposals approved;

(c) whether any proposals in respect of Sambhal Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh are also under consideration of the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As per information available as on 31.3.96 there are 3761 Primary Health Centres functioning in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) A proposal for strengthening of Primary Health Services under Basic Minimum Services has been received from the State and was sent to Planning Commission with the requested financial assistance of Rs. 47.5 crores. The entire amount is being released by Department of Finance to Government of Uttar Pradesh on the formula based on additional Central Assistance for Basic Minimum Services with the clear directions that amount will be adjusted at the time of Annual Plan.

(c) No such proposal has been received by Department of Family Welfare.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Bypass on G.T. Road, Allahabad**

287. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Allahabad Airport is situated on the G.T. Road due to which the road remains busy and blocked due to frequent VIP movement;

(b) whether a number of accidents have taken place on the road;

(c) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to construct a bypass on G.T. Road/F.T. Road to remove congestion and avoid accidents on G.T. Road; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Roads remains busy due to very heavy traffic. However, no blockage of the road due to VIP movement has been reported.

(b) There is no report from the State PWD that the stretch is abnormally accident prone.

(c) and (d) Proposal for construction of a bypass at Allahabad is in a preliminary stage.

*[Translation]*

**Recruitment of Education Officers in KVs**

288. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the selection procedure for the post of Education Officer in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghthan;

(b) whether direct recruitment for the post of Education Officer is made on the basis of a written test followed by an interview; and

(c) if so, the details of the qualifying marks fixed for written test and interview ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA ): (a) to (c) 50% posts of Education Officer are filled by direct recruitment and 50% by promotion from amongst Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas. For filling posts of Education Officer by direct recruitment, selection is made on the basis of performance in written test as well as interview. Short-listing of candidates is done on the basis of written test and the final list is prepared on the basis of the combined merit of written test and interview.

**Drowning of Indians in Mediterranean Sea**

289. KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI THOMAS HANSDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that at least three hundred illegal emigrants including two hundred twenty seven Indians were drowned on their way to Greece off the coast of Malta on December 25, 1996;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiries into the circumstances of the clandestine escape of these illegal emigrants and the incidence of consigning them to their watery grave;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for the incident; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to provide relief measures to those killed in the incident ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Our Ambassador in Athens reported on 7th January, 1997 of the sinking of a ship carrying Indian nationals amongst others in the Malta-Sicily channel. The number of Indians reportedly drowned is about 175, though no trace of bodies or wreckage of the boat has been recovered so far. Estimate of those drowned including their identification is based on the evidences given by twenty two survivors who were rescued and later deported to India.

(b) On receipt of this report, Government immediately ordered a CBI inquiry.

(c) and (d) While some arrests have been made, the CBI inquiry is still in progress. Based on this inquiry further necessary action will be taken in this regard.

*[English]*

**Visa Facilities to Indian Visitors in Pakistan**

290. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has taken some measures assuring visa clearance for the business delegations within 24 hours from the date of receipt of the request;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such facility would be applicable to Indian visitors to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) Pakistan has been following a restrictive visa regime for Indian nationals which involves the pre-verification of all visa applications on a case-by-case basis.

However, the SAARC Council of Foreign Ministers in its meeting in New Delhi on December 1996, which was attended by Pakistan Foreign Minister, approved the recommendations of the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation (CEC) that decisions on visa applications of